

Lanius ludovicianus (migrans).—On August 29, 1898, Master LeRoy King took a Shrike on Indian Ave., Newport, and brought the specimen to Edward Sturtevant, Esq., through whose kindness it finally reached me for identification. I referred the bird directly to Mr. William Palmer's new subspecies *migrans* of *Lanius ludovicianus*, described in 'The Auk' (Vol. XV, No. 3, 244), and forwarded the specimen to him for his examination. The bird is an immature female and measured by Mr. Palmer's measurement (taken from skin), wing, 3.85; tail, 3.60; culmen, .53; tarsus, 1.12. Mr. Palmer referred the bird to his subspecies and drew attention to some points I had already noted, *viz.*, first plumage feathers on head, back, and wing-coverts and the growing out of a new tail-feather, either to replace moult or loss. For the present we must call the bird, I suppose, *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*.

Numenius longirostris. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—At Jamestown on September 9, 1897, a single bird, sex unknown, was taken by Thomas R. Stetson on the edge of Round Swamp. The bird I obtained and is now in the collection of Mr. William Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.

Ammodramus princeps. IPSWICH SPARROW.—Among the dunes back of the first and second beach at Newport and Middletown this species winters not uncommonly.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Notes on Long Island Birds.—The following data include observations of some birds not before referred to by the writer, while others have been included here on the ground of further acquaintanceship, or for other reasons.

Larus leucopterus (or kumlien). On March 8, 1898, a Gull was shot by John Tiernan of Rockaway Beach while he was lying in a small boat about five miles off shore stooling for Old Squaw Ducks. On the following day while at the beach, I noticed this Gull hanging on the awning frame of Tiernan's hotel. The light colored (almost white) primaries caught my attention at once, and I secured the bird. It is an immature male; much smaller than *L. glaucus*, and its rather dark coloration I found puzzling. Through the kindness of Mr. Walter Deane of Cambridge, Mass., the skin was examined by Mr. William Brewster who named it *L. leucopterus*. Mr. Brewster is inclined to regard the phase of plumage represented by the present specimen as belonging to that of the immature *L. kumlien*, the status of which, as yet, has not been determined. The Iceland Gull has been rarely taken on Long Island. Giraud makes no mention of the species, nor is it included in Mr. Lawrence's 'Catalogue of Birds.' It is stated in Chapman's 'Birds of Eastern North America' to be an autumnal visitant in winter.

Sterna caspia. The Caspian Tern appears to occur on our coast regularly each autumn, though it is never, I believe, common. On May 12, 1898, I received two adult males from Mr. Andrew Chichester of Amityville, Long Island, who had shot them on the South Bay the preceding

day, together with one other specimen, which was given by him to a local taxidermist, and which I saw later. The sex of the latter bird was undetermined. Mr. Chapman believes these to be the first spring records for this vicinity. Mr. Dutcher, writing me in regard to this species, says they constitute the first record of this species occurring here in spring. In the autumn of this year, at the same place, September 3, I met with two more specimens; one, an immature female, which was shot, and an adult bird. Mr. William Dutcher informs me that he has always seen the young accompanied in this way by an adult and never alone.

Aythya collaris. The Ring-necked Duck has been so infrequently recorded from Long Island that it is well worthy of mention. The gunner above mentioned sent me this specimen, a male, which he believed to be a "cross between a Red-head and a Broad-bill." He had "never seen one like it before," and consequently it must be rare on Long Island, as during his long experience as a gunner in the Great South Bay he has met with many rare, as well as the ordinary, species which frequent this famous resort of water-fowl. The bird came alone to the decoys.

Tringa bairdii. While on a visit to Shinnecock Bay on Oct. 31, 1894, a number of Snipes were seen and secured, notably White-rumped Sandpipers. This specimen, among others, was labeled as such, but not without some misgivings. Only recently it was more critically examined and found to be *T. bairdii*. Mr. Arthur H. Howell, who was at the same place when the bird was shot, recently recalled to my mind the fact that the bird was alone, on a sandbar, when shot. The bird was not very active, and it is possible may have been previously wounded. Mr. N. T. Lawrence has obtained three or more specimens from Long Island. The species is not included by Giraud in 'The Birds of Long Island.'

Ereunetes occidentalis. In the fall of 1897, the Western Semipalmated Sandpiper was abundant on Long Island. Besides three or more specimens from Shinnecock Bay, collected by Mr. Howell, it was met with by Mr. H. C. Burton on the South Bay in July and by the writer during the same season (once each) on both the Great South Bay and (August 28) on Jamaica Bay.

Alauda arvensis. The English Skylark is at present firmly established as a Long Island resident. Between Flatlands and Holy Cross Cemetery, and to the east of the latter, many are to be seen and heard. On March 28, 1898, while on the Neck Road, I heard for the first time the twittering, *burring*, continuously sustained song of this species and saw it rising gradually on fluttering wings up into the blue ether. At a later date one was heard singing continuously for eight minutes while in the air and for two minutes more *after alighting on the ground*. They were neither seen nor heard in September and October, though doubtless they might have been at suitable times; namely, early in the morning or in the evening. Several were heard and seen at the same time in the locality indicated above. It is likely they will later be found at other points on Long Island.

Sturnus vulgaris. About a mile in a straight line from the colony of Skylarks, I first saw the European Starling, where it was afterward seen repeatedly. Near Kensington Station someone within the present year has placed in a large tree several bird boxes, which are occupied by the Starlings.

The tower of the Boys' High School in Brooklyn noted in the article referred to as occupied by these birds, still retains its attractions for them. This was probably the original nesting colony on Long Island. Another colony now occupies the steeple of a church at Bedford Avenue and Madison Street. At several points in the environs of Brooklyn the Starlings have been seen, where they were evidently visiting for the purpose of obtaining food, while at various points in the city itself they are commonly observed.

Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna.—The Savanna Sparrow has been found on Long Island in summer, but not so far west I believe as the following record. At Garden City 17th July, 1897, an adult male in worn breeding plumage was found in a locality where many Grasshopper Sparrows were resident. Mr. Oberholser considers this an interesting discovery and at his suggestion it is made a matter of record. Mr. Wm. Dutcher has recorded this species from Long Island in summer. It is also a winter bird on Long Island. The writer met with a specimen Jan. 30, 1895, at Flatbush, L. I.

Contopus borealis. The Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in limited numbers in the early autumn of 1896 in Brooklyn (Auk, XIV, p. 99). They have been observed since in both 1897 and 1898, single specimens having been secured on the following dates: September 25, 1897, an immature female, and August 27, 1898, an adult male. It should be considered, I think, a regular and not uncommon autumn migrant for Long Island.

Empidonax flaviventris. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was first described in 1843 by Wm. M. and S. F. Baird as *Tyrannula flaviventris* in Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil., I, 283. Giraud makes no mention of the species in 'The Birds of Long Island,' published in 1844, though it had been separated and described, as above, in the year preceding the issue of his work. It is a matter of interest to note that the first specimen in the series of this species in Prof. Baird's collection was taken on Long Island, being labeled Raynor Sound (South), Long Island, Aug. 4, 1831 (Cat. No. 1951. See U. S. P. R. R. Exp. and Surveys, IX, 1860, p. 199. It seems to occur rather rarely on Long Island in spring, while in the autumn it is certainly not rare. Mr. Dutcher has kindly furnished me with the following data of its occurrence: Aug. 19, 1893, Parkville (Coll. Wm. Dutcher); Sept. 18, 1890, Statue of Liberty, N. Y. Harbor; May 19, 1892, Flatbush (per A. H. Howell); June 10, 1893, Brooklyn (per A. H. H.). The following dates of their occurrence are added from my own notes: May 25, 1897, Parkville; Aug. 27, 1898, do.; Sept. 2, Sheepshead Bay; Sept. 11, 1895, Parkville. The above dates probably cover nearly

the limits of its occurrence on Long Island; namely, May 19 to June 10 and Aug. 4 to Sept. 18.—WM. C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Orleans County, N. Y.—During the past week the writer has accomplished a casual reading of a complete file of 'The Auk', from Vol. I, No. 1 to date, and finds that during the entire fifteen years of its publication it has contained only two items which pertain to the ornithology of this county, and those were of but a paragraph each. Our county has not, however, been so free from rare avian visitors as this sparsity of record would seem to indicate. On the contrary, there have been many occurrences well worthy of mention, although it does seem that no one has taken the pains to have them properly recorded. Permit me now to make mention of some of the most interesting of these, as follows:—

Colymbus holboelli. HOLBOELL'S GREBE.—A somewhat ancient record, dating back to May 1, 1873, on which day, Mr. David Bruce of Brockport secured a specimen near Murray. This bird was somewhat above the ordinary in size, measuring twenty-one inches in length.

Uria lomvia. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Mr. F. A. Macomber of Murray has a mounted specimen in winter plumage which was brought to him in the first half of March, 1897, having been taken alive by hand, in a famished condition, on the ice of Sandy Creek. My collection contains the mounted head of another individual which was picked up dead from the Lake Ontario shore in the town of Kendall, by Mr. Harry Burnett.

Rissa tridactyla. KITTIWAKE.—A mounted specimen in the collection of Mr. O. B. Mitchell of Holley, taken by him on a pond in the town of Clarendon after a heavy storm.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—A finely mounted female of this species is in the collection of Mr. David Bruce of Brockport, taken by him in September, 1890, on Lake Ontario, in the town of Kendall.

Phaëthon flavirostris. YELLOW-BILLED TROPIC BIRD.—The extraordinary occurrence of this very southern bird in our county is recorded by Rev. J. H. Langille in his 'Our Birds in their Haunts,' page 615.

Branta canadensis hutchinsii. HUTCHINS'S GOOSE.—A specimen taken at Gaines, about 1888, is now in the possession of Mr. Newell Beekwith of that place.

Plegadis autumnalis. GLOSSY IBIS.—An individual of this species was shot in Tonawanda Swamp in May, 1889 and brought to Mr. George H. Hedley of Medina to be mounted.

Ardea egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Three of these birds wandered into our county in July, 1883, and two of them were shot near Kent on the 27th of that month. One of these is now in the possession of Mr. Edgar Ford of Carlyon, who shot it.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—The late Alfred Myhill of Medina once took a specimen from a marsh